

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated September 19, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicant gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13, 19 and 20.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant herewith files a Revocation of Power of Attorney with New Power of Attorney and a Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) indicating that the undersigned is Attorney of Record.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 12, 13, 16 and 20, and cancels claim 19 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5-18 and 20 are current pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 13 because of lack of antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the current amendments in claim 13, this objection is now believed to be moot.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 12 and 14-18 as being anticipated by Asakura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,531,329). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 16 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 16 now includes the subject matter of previous claim 19 which was allowed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 and claims 17 and 18, which depend from claim 16, are in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim 12 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 12 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...a seal pattern having at least one liquid crystal injection hole and disposed between outer peripheral portions of the first and second substrates; and a plurality of venting portions formed in the seal pattern at corner portions of the first and second substrates for venting air confined between the first and second substrates..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 12 and claims 14 and 15, which depend from claim 15, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: December 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By  _____
Eric Nuss

Registration No.: 40,106
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant